

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 7, 9 and 19 have been amended. Claims 6 and 8 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-19 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-5, 7, 14 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirst (US 5,627,722) in view of Oguma et al. (US 2002/0064390), and further in view of Tanizaki (JP 2001-356553).

Claims 1-5

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6 and is therefore believed to be allowable. Claims 2-5 depend on claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 7 and 14

Claim 7 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 8 and is therefore believed to be allowable. Claim 14 depends on claim 7 and is believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 19

Amended claim 19 recites that the high voltage supply source is comprised of a single voltage supply having a developing roller voltage unit, a developer feed roller voltage unit and a developer layer thickness restricting blade voltage unit. Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 6. In contrast to claim 6, it is respectfully submitted that neither Hirst, Oguma nor Tanizaki discuss a high voltage supply source including a single voltage supply having a developing roller voltage unit, a developer feed roller voltage unit and a developer layer thickness restricting blade voltage unit.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 15-18 have been allowed and that claims 6 and 8-13 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 6 and 8 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claims 9-13 are allowable in their present form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: July 5, 2006

By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501